



Communitas Education Trust

17th May 2020

Potential Re-opening of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are well and that you are keeping safe.

We are sure that you have heard the latest proposals from the government about how and when schools might re-open their doors to more children. There is a lot of information to understand and a great many things to consider before the trustees, governors and head teachers make any decisions. Specifically, we need to be clear whether or not what is being proposed is safe for our children, families, staff and the wider community. Please do not make any plans to return your child to school until we have officially confirmed details.

Below is a summary of the government's proposals:

- Schools are being asked to open 'at the earliest' from 1st June to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.
- The aim is to get all primary year groups back to school before the end of June.
- Children to be taught in groups of no more than 15 children.
- Social distancing within each child's teaching group is not expected, although there should be measures to minimise interaction between children and adults of different teaching groups.
- Staggered drop-off and pick-up times, lunches and playtimes.
- Continued childcare provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children.
- Continued provision of remote learning for children not attending school.
- Additional cleaning and hygiene measures.
- Opening the kitchen in order to provide lunches for children in attendance at school.
- Personal protective equipment is not recommended for children or adults in a school setting.

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Alongside these proposals, some of the other things that the schools in the Trust are considering are:

- Children's safety and well-being.
- Staff safety, well-being and workload.
- The safety and well-being of the wider community (families and relatives) and contractors working with the Trust schools.
- How we might manage the spaces inside and outside in order to be able to teach safely.
- The availability of staff, a number of whom are themselves in high risk groups, or live with somebody else who is in a high risk group.
- The possibility of transmission of the virus from children, who are largely asymptomatic, to the adults working with them and other adults in the school community (parents, carers and others e.g. at drop-off and pick-up).
- Parental support for proposals.
- The curriculum that is to be followed.

Please be assured that our first priority is the safety of everybody in our school communities. That said, the Trust needs to make plans for how to return safely to schools whether we re-open in June or at a later stage. We are going to have to come back to school at some point!

Whenever it is that schools re-open, it is clear that they will 'look' very different to how they were prior to the coronavirus outbreak. The measures proposed, or others like them, are likely to be in place for a considerable amount of time once children return. The nature of these measures, and what they look like for our school community, is what will be carefully considered by the trustees and school governors before greater numbers of children return to school.

We will be in touch as soon as possible to let you know how we plan to proceed. In the meantime, I trust that you will stay socially distanced during this transitional phase so that you stay safe and well.

With best wishes,



Nick Tildesley
CEO
Communitas Education Trust



Paul Marray
Chair of Trustees
Communitas Education Trust